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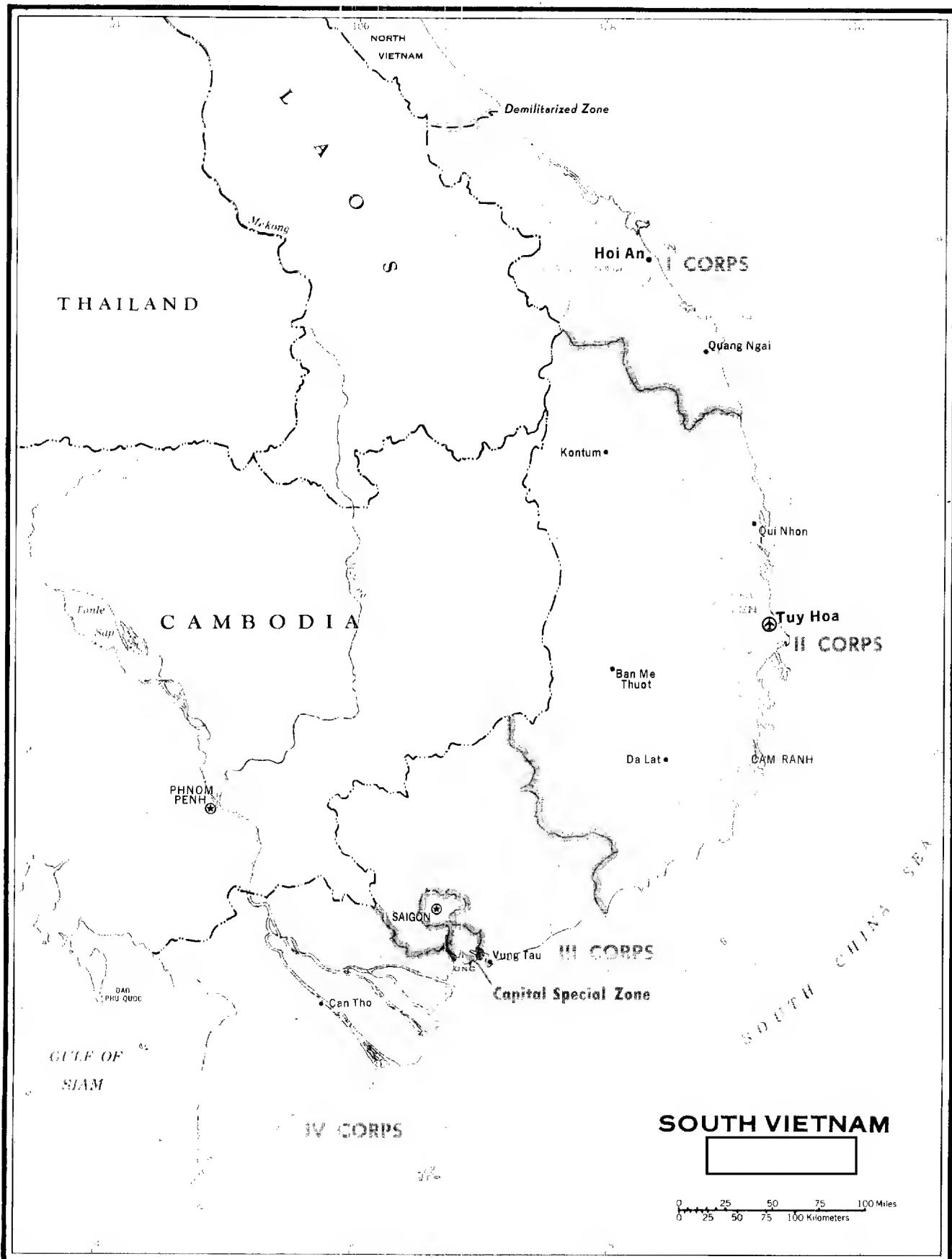
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[South Vietnam: Enemy military action in South Vietnam remains at a low level, although Communist forces staged a spectacular attack against the Tuy Hoa air base in Phu Yen Province on 29 July.

Two large transport aircraft were destroyed and five fighters and transports were damaged at a cost to the enemy of nine killed.

Elsewhere, US forces suffered heavy casualties in a seven-hour engagement on 29 July with an estimated enemy company west of Hoi An in Quang Nam Province. Nineteen US Marines were killed and 32 wounded in the battle, against five enemy troops killed.

* * * *

Recent allied estimates of population controlled by the government point to a considerable recovery from losses caused by the Communists' Tet attacks. After a post-Tet low of 59.8 percent, late June estimates had risen to 63.3 percent, a recovery of some 600,000 people. An estimated 67.2 percent of the population was government-controlled just prior to Tet. Despite the resumption of much government control, however, conditions in the countryside remain unstable. [] (Map)]

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[USSR-Czechoslovakia: The Soviet-Czechoslovak confrontation apparently is still in progress at Cierna nad Tisou.

Except for politburo members Kirilenko and Polyansky, who are respectively attending to party and government matters at home, the entire Soviet party leadership is there. The Czechoslovak delegation includes the entire presidium, plus President Svoboda. At 2200 hours Czechoslovak time last night, Prague Radio reported from an official source that the two sides had exchanged views and the talks were continuing into the night.

Although polemics on both sides were toned down yesterday, the Czechoslovaks are under immense Soviet psychological-military pressure. []

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South Korea: The military is increasingly concerned with the political situation after several years of virtual noninvolvement.

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[redacted] career army officers have begun to take stands supporting either President Pak or Kim Chong-pil, the recently resigned boss of the governing party who is believed ambitious to succeed Pak. [redacted] the majority of senior officers are very critical of corruption surrounding Pak's key advisers but probably would be unwilling to become directly involved in any covert activity to support Kim for fear of forced retirement or other government reprisals.

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In addition to the corruption issue, there is apparently considerable sentiment in the officer corps against amending the constitution to allow Pak to seek a third term. Those holding to this view do not necessarily favor Kim, however. Kim is still distrusted by many officers.

A trend to growing concern and participation by the military in the presidential succession struggle could eventually contribute to a renewal of political instability such as plagued the formative years of the current regime. [redacted]

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India: Prime Minister Indira Gandhi has emerged relatively unscathed from a trying week of critical parliamentary debate over Indo-Soviet relations.

In meeting the domestic furor that erupted over the Soviet decision to sell arms to Pakistan, Mrs. Gandhi has blunted what could have been a heavily damaging issue to her. Extensive consultations before Parliament opened and full public backing from her most dangerous rivals defused dangers from within her own Congress Party and limited the effectiveness of the opposition attack. Her refusal to entertain even a mild opposition resolution condemning the Soviets forced the opposition into an ill-fated adjournment motion implying censure which helped to unite Congress parliamentary support behind her.

Despite her sometimes weak parliamentary performance, Mrs. Gandhi apparently managed both to admonish the Soviets and placate aroused public sentiment without jeopardizing Indo-Soviet relations. The considerable governmental criticism of the Soviet move was restrained in tone and more than balanced by the emphasis on maintaining Soviet friendship.

Although Mrs. Gandhi has for now avoided the many political pitfalls arising from the controversial Soviet move, she remains vulnerable to further attacks by her critics. New moves by the Soviets to improve their relations with Pakistan and the actual arrival of Soviet arms in Pakistan could inflame the issue again.

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NOTE

Dominican Republic: Security forces have been ordered to round up "all Communists and suspected Communists" following a weekend of sporadic violence apparently dedicated to marking "Support Cuba Week." Of about 150 arrested on 28 July, some 100 still are being detained. In the past, arrests based on loosely worded orders such as this one have included many non-Communist leftists and produced strong public protests from their organizations. It is not clear whether the present order was issued by President Balaguer, who has curtailed his activities recently because of an apparently minor illness.

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